

20 June 1949

Mrs. Catherine Sullivan



Dear Mrs. Sullivan:

Your letter of 31 May, addressed to the President of the United States, has been forwarded to this Agency for reply. The provision of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 regarding the admission annually of a very limited number of aliens, appears to cause you serious concern, which I hope this letter will help alleviate.

This law is not designed to open the doors to foreign spies, traitors, or paid informers. It is confined to people of the highest caliber who must leave their country on short notice or face prison, torture and possible death. The people who ^{will} come to America under these provisions ^{will be} are persons who have shown by their actions over a long period of time that they strongly adhere to the principles of democracy and a way of life completely akin to ours.

Many of these people feel so strongly about the United States and the democratic way of life that they are willing to give us information of all kinds, even at the risk of their own lives. This information is vitally needed to maintain the national security of the United States.

One cannot look upon these people as traitors to their country, but rather must consider them as we considered members of the underground and resistance groups during the war-as our allies in a world-wide fight for democracy.

While the law grants entry only to one hundred aliens a year, all that is waived ^{in this connection} are the laws regarding admissability of aliens. Once they are in this country, they are subject to all the laws of the United States, including deportation for cause arising out of misconduct subsequent to their arrival. The eventual granting of citizenship to these people is dependent ^{el}ly upon their conduct while living in the United States.

Sincerely yours,